

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND IN THE
MATTER OF NO. 1 PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, FOR OSA,
SITUATED AT NIKKASUKI. Nov 42 to May 45

A F F I D A V I T

I, No. 165479 JAMES NEHEMIAH CROSS, Lieutenant, Royal Artillery, with permanent address at 20, Stanley Road, BRIMLEY, Kent, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was captured at SINGAPORE on 15th February 1942 and was subsequently held prisoner at CHANGI, SINGAPORE until my arrival at KAILUNG, FOR OSA, on 14th November 1942. I was a prisoner at the NIKKASUKI Camp from November 1942 and during the whole of the time that this camp was in existence until May 1945. During this period Major J.F. CROSSBANK, Royal Artillery, was the Personnel Administrator (P.A.). I kept a diary of the main events at the camp, and portions of this diary are referred to below.

2. GENERAL.

Out of about 1,000 officers and men who were landed from the Japanese steamer "England Maru" at KAILUNG, the Northern port of FOR OSA, on 14th November, 1942, one party consisting of 523 (34 officers, 489 other ranks) were numbered off and made to stand for two and a half hours in the street. It was bitterly cold and pouring with rain; we were wearing only tropical clothing. After this we were taken by train to SEIHO station and then ordered to march six or seven miles into the mountains. During this march, many of the weaker fell by the wayside but no one was allowed to attend to them and they were beaten and kicked by the Japanese guards until they got up and staggered on their way. No transport was provided for kits and most men threw theirs away after one or two miles' marching. Luckily, it was collected later by the local passenger 'bus. The party arrived at the Chinese school at NIKKASUKI at about 5 p.m. General sorting out continued until 9 p.m., no-one being allowed to sit or lean against the wall. During this time Japanese newspaper reporters tried interviewing various officers and men, and it would appear that most of the replies received to their questions were unprintable.

We were then addressed by a very pompous Japanese Officer through an interpreter. This officer stated that he was the Camp Commander, and we subsequently learnt that his name was Lieutenant WAKIYA A. He continued for over an hour to reel off the Japanese successes in the War, saying that we should receive plenty of bread and meat as soon as they had captured Australia, "which would be very soon now". Following that, he read out the rules of the camp and made a special point that if any prisoner laughed at the Japanese or Japanese habits, they would be severely punished. After this we left the school and about half an hour's march brought us to the camp. Here we had to pile all our kit in one room and were then taken four at a time in front of the "Kenpei" (Security Police), completely stripped and searched; approximately one man in four was knocked down for the amusement of the "Kenpei". We were left with either a shirt or a pair of pants only and given wooden clogs in place of boots or shoes. After this we were taken outside and continued to stand in the rain and cold, dressed only in these clothes, for a further three hours. Eventually, about 2 a.m., we were taken to huts, given one loaf of bread, and told that a Vigilant Guard of two men must be on duty between Lights Out and Reveille. These men were responsible for prevention

of fire and stealing, and also told that if anyone escaped whilst they were on duty, they would be dealt with as accomplices. It was not possible to obtain a drink of anything before going to bed. Each man was provided with three blankets, two sheets and a pillow.

It will be seen from the above story that all men had been on the move from 6 a.m. on the 14th November until 2 a.m. on the 15th November. We had been imprisoned on the ship for three weeks, landed in Formosa straight from the tropical climate of Singapore into a cold and wet climate. All this, coupled with the treatment as described above, resulted in the deaths of at least ten men:-

GRIFFITHS
WEARING
SHAW
CUNN
BRAIN

POWELL
ADAMSON
MILLERY
WARNOCK
JORDAN

JORDON, who was a very sick man on the ship, was unable from the start to march at the required pace and was consequently beaten all the way; he never recovered, and died in February.

On 15th November we were required to collect our kit left in one room on the previous night, and under close supervision to prepare it for inspection. At this point we came into contact with the Formosan Guards, who were to give so much trouble in later months and years. These guards, watched over by Japanese N.C.O.'s, searched the kit, taking anything they or the Jap N.C.O.'s wanted, together with forbidden articles. Before leaving Singapore, a Red Cross consignment had been received and many officers and men had a small number of tins of food in their packs. Such delights as Bully Beef had never been seen by the search party before and, of course, all but a few tins were confiscated for their own use. There were also some tins of milk, which we were told would be pooled and used in the Prisoners' Hospital. It is true that this milk was stored in the Hospital, but few patients saw it. The Japanese medical staff never had tea without milk whilst the supply lasted.

The routine of the Camp, as laid down in Regulations for Prisoners of War, Formosa, came into effect as from the 16th November, and was brutally enforced.

The Camp was divided into twelve squads: Officers and N.C.O.'s in separate squads. Each squad was commanded by a prisoner selected by the Japanese. This commander was responsible for the transmission of orders from the Japanese Army to his squad, and also for the actions of the men under him.

Our billets were extremely overcrowded and all the roofs were old and did not serve to keep out the rain.

The general policy of beating and ruthlessness was very quickly apparent. There were six sentry posts within the Prisoners' area of the camp. All these sentries had to be saluted at all times. It was not possible to go to the latrines without saluting at least two sentries.

The guards were constantly in and out of billets and, of course, it was necessary for the prisoners in each hut to stand up and bow when the guard entered, and also to remain standing to attention whilst he remained in the hut.

During the first three weeks at this camp the beatings were too numerous to give in detail, and I doubt if there was a single prisoner who escaped the officers coming in for particular attention.

To quote one instance - on the third or fourth night after our arrival, about half an hour after Lights Out, the Guard Commander visited the Officers' Billet and ordered them all to get out of bed. We then inspected the night attire of each one and those who, in his opinion, were inadequately dressed received the butt end of his rifle in the stomach or any part lower which he happened to contact. In addition, the two officers on Night Guard and the Squad Commander - Lt. Colonel NAFLER - were badly beaten for allowing such things to be. This was repeated in each hut in turn. We were told that we must take care of our health.

As will be seen from the Death List, one man, GRIFFITHS, died on the 16th November. One officer and a party of men were taken off, together with the body, to a spot in the mountains some two or three miles from the Camp, the coffin having to be dragged up with ropes. When they arrived they were ordered to commence to cut down the grass and prepare a place for the grave, and thus the cemetery, which was to be used so often, came into being. It is pointed out that wood was provided for a coffin, but no clothing was allowed to remain on the body.

The paper now produced to me and marked "J.T.N.C.1" is a copy of extracts from my diary. The entries made therein were made by me at or near the time when the events described occurred.

On 22nd February 1943 the P.A. submitted a letter of protest to the Camp Commander and a copy thereof is annexed hereto and marked "J.T.N.C.2".

During February and March 1943 there was a great deal of trouble about officers being forced to work at the minehead. As a result of this, certain officers were sentenced to imprisonment for an indefinite period. Copies of correspondence relating to this matter, which is there set out in full, are attached hereto and marked "J.T.N.C.3".

3. WORK

Work was commenced in the KAWASAKI Copper Mines in December 1942. From the Camp to the minehead (which was close to the sea) the men had to descend 1,186 steps each morning and from the minehead to the working levels there were 2,000 more steps. It can be imagined how difficult this climb was after a hard day's work.

The work at the beginning consisted of filling small baskets with copper ore by means of Chungkel (pointed hoe).

The working conditions were atrocious. In some holes there was an incessant flow of acid water from the roof, in others it was not possible to stand up; elsewhere there would be constant falling of the roof and, worst of all, in some places the heat was so terrific that it was only possible to lift the Chungkel about three times before getting a black-out and becoming unconscious. It was learned later that these holes had been closed for so many years as the native labour, Chinese etc., refused to work in them.

The prisoners were organised into working squads, with civilian foremen known as "Hanchos" in charge. These hanchos had white bars painted on their mining hats, starting with one bar for the juniors and up to four bars for the seniors. The one bar hanchos were Formosans and the two bars and upwards were Japanese. Japanese sentries from the Camp did not enter the mine but stayed in a Guard Room at the mine entrance.

Working hours were	Leave camp:	07.30 hrs
	Lunch break:	one hour
	Return:	18.00 hrs

Lunch, consisting of cold rice and vegetables, was carried individually in wooden boxes.

Clothing consisted of shorts, shirts and rubber and canvas boots (Tabic) but only a 'G' string was worn whilst working in the mine. Apart from a handkerchief and cigarettes, nothing else was allowed to be taken into the mine.

For the first six weeks the work was very light and little or no trouble was experienced. The men made certain contacts with some of the Chinese workers who later kept us fairly well supplied with news. The whole of the labour in this mine was forced labour and ranged from children of seven or eight years old up to Chinese Political Prisoners who had been transported from such places as HONG KONG and SHANGHAI. At about the end of January 1943, three men reported to the P.A. that the two-bar Hanchos had beaten them up with the long shaft of a hammer. Upon inspection they were found to be black and blue all over. The P.A. asked the Jap officer in charge of work to come and see these men, which he did, and thought it was very amusing. From this time onwards the savage and brutal conduct of the mine hanchos would have to be seen to be believed, and instead of using the shafts of their hammers, they used the metal end, i.e. the hammer itself on the heads and bodies of the men.

Every evening when the men finished work, they were lined up by the hanchos in the tunnels of the mine and those who, in their opinion, had not done enough work were beaten with hammers until they were unconscious and had to be carried back into the camp by their comrades. It can be imagined the effect of this on all the men; the mine had become a veritable "hell spot" and the men dreaded the coming of each dawn when they would have to go into the mine again. It was learned later that the threat of being sent to the Copper Mines was used constantly in the other P.O.W. Camps on the Island as an intimidation.

Repeated attempts were made by us with the Japs to improve working conditions, but it is certain that this treatment was in full accordance with the policy of the Camp Commander (Lt. KARIYA A) who refused to interfere in any way.

The first death in the mine occurred on 1st February 1943, when Gnr. MILLERSHIP fell down a shale head first and was killed instantly. The Japanese made a great fuss about this first accident and then informed us that it was his own fault and no Hanchos could be attached to them.

Unfortunately the names of these civilians (Hanchos) were unknown to us and the men had nicknames for them such as The Eagle, The Ghost, Frying Pan, Blackie, and several others. All these men live in KIKASAKI itself and it should be very easy to identify them. Indirectly these hanchos were responsible for the deaths of many men in the camp through their

brutal and inhuman treatment. Conditions continued the same during 1943 and every means possible was tried to improve conditions. Various ways and means were devised of keeping sick men in camp unknown to the Japanese.

As a result of this treatment, by 10th May 1943 less than fifty per cent of the men were fit to walk to the mine. The Camp Commander said this was due to Red Cross food. During the next three months, men were constantly beaten, particularly by the hanchos in the mine, without provocation. On one occasion ninety per cent of the sick were forced to work because of an inspection by the Commander in Chief. In August Gnr. SLENNY was killed by a fall of the roof in the mine, and Gnr. HART was beaten unconscious by the hanchos in the mine. During September 1943 conditions improved a little, and in October the mine hanchos were enlisted in the Japanese Army and came directly under the control of the Camp Commander.

In November, Sjt. PULLINGER was killed by a fall of the roof in the mine. From this time on, as a result of a letter submitted by the P.A., conditions of work improved and complaints were investigated by the Camp Commander.

The copy letter now produced to me and marked "J.T.N.C.4" is a true copy of a letter submitted by the P.A. to the Camp Commander in November 1943.

Early in December 1943 Lieut. WAKIYAMA was replaced as Camp Commander by Capt. I. A. URA.

Deaths in the mine from accidents continued as before. In January 1944 the men were ordered to make bayonets, and strong protest was made by the P.A., as a result of which the work ceased. In April 1944 the P.A. wrote a further letter to the Camp Commander on the subject of accidents, copy of which is now produced to me marked "J.T.N.C.5".

In September 1944 a great speed drive was started in the mine by the Japanese, with most unfortunate results. Most of the bogies in the mine were derailed, pneumatic drills ceased to function, in fact everything went wrong and production hit a new low level. The mine became flooded and work had to be suspended on many levels.

In November 1944 very little work was being done by the men and officially work ended at about 1530 hrs. In February 1945 many of the Japanese hanchos were being conscripted for the Army and work was diminishing. In March the mine closed down completely, and there was no more work until we moved to the jungle camp.

4. MEDICAL

On our arrival at KINMASAKI Camp in November 1942 the Japanese medical staff consisted of one Sergeant TASHIRO (a brutal and ruthless beast) and two privates. The day after we arrived, Gnr. GRIFFITHS was taken seriously ill and the Japs asked if there was a doctor in the camp. Captain SLENNY thereupon moved to the hospital, examined this man and diagnosed diphtheria. At this the Jap medical staff ran away and would not come near. Captain SLENNY did what he could with the drugs which he had carried from SINGAPORE but Gnr. GRIFFITHS died within 24 hours.

The Medical Officer was assisted by three orderlies (one R.A.M.C. and two Regimental orderlies, and Capt. BADGETT, A.D. Corps). Each morning the Jap medical sergeant would appear and start the day's work by severely beating up the doctor and his orderlies. Sick parade was held by the Jap Sergeant and the cure in nearly all cases was to be knocked to the ground with a big stick; as a consequence, men who were really sick did not report so the doctor managed to slip round the huts at the risk of a good beating and attend to the more seriously ill. During December 1942 ten men died; four in January 1943, and ten in February.

The system of medical control was that men who were considered sick enough were admitted to hospital. Men who were considered sick and bed cases were given a red card and allowed to lie down in billets. Men who were considered sick and not fit to work were given white cards, but were worked very hard in all weathers by the Japs in the camp. In all cases these admissions to hospital and the issue of cards were decided by the Japanese sergeant, and if the doctor tried to intervene on behalf of any man, he finished up on the floor.

Immediately before the work parade each morning there was an emergency sick parade held in the camp office and taken by the Jap Medical sergeant. Again treatment was brutal and the only people who were excused from work were men with cuts sustained in the mine. Men with temperatures of 102 and 103 were always ordered to work. Almost every morning the P.M. or his assistant would appeal to the Jap officer when the men were actually on parade and sometimes succeeded in getting these men off work at the last minute; often at the expense of a beating by the medical sergeant. In the hospital almost every day the medical sergeant would beat up a few patients; many of them died within a few hours.

Sick men's rations were cut in half by the Japs and a great number ordered no food at all, the Jap system being: "No work - no food". We had our own methods of dealing with this matter, and sick men in most cases received as much as they could eat.

Every day many men were carried back into the camp by their comrades who were only just strong enough to walk themselves. It would take anything up to two hours' argument with the Jap medical sergeant to get these men off work.

On 26th January, 1943, the P.M. made a formal application in writing to the Camp Commander asking that each squad be allowed to carry First Aid Equipment.

It is interesting to note that all the articles of First Aid had been confiscated from us and locked up by the Japs. This request for First Aid equipment in the mine was repeated verbally by the P.M. on 1st, 5th and 16th February 1943, and afterwards at regular intervals. It was, however, not until February 1944 that two medical orderlies were permitted to accompany the working party.

Very few, if any, drugs were provided by the Japs, and we had to manage with the few which we had been able to carry with us from SINGAPORE. Later, officers were allowed to buy drugs for the Camp. On 15th June 1943 Sergeant DAVIES had acute appendicitis; the Japs told the doctor to remove it but offered no help. After a long argument he was eventually taken to the mining company hospital, and a successful operation was performed by the Jap civilian doctor.

The death rate was now declining but so was the health of the men, especially those working in the mine, and there were innumerable mine accidents.

In August 1943 100 of the sick men were sent to another camp and fit men brought in to replace them, also another doctor, Major B.M. WHEELER, I.M.S., came. This relieved the situation considerably, and the medical staff now consisted of two doctors, four R.M.C. and three Regt. orderlies, although it must be remembered that the Japs still maintained absolutely full control over the sick and on many occasions when the doctors ordered a man into hospital, the Japanese medical sergeant threw him out to work. At least once or twice a week the Jap Orderly Officer would call a parade of all the sick in the camp and probably decide that 80 per cent of the men were fit to work, and they were sent to the mine. On one occasion the Jap Commander (Lt. M. KIYAMA) ordered a man (L/Bdr ASKEW) to be picked up and carried down the mine. After some heated words between the P.M. and the Commander the man was allowed to be carried to the hospital instead.

/Towards

Towards the end of 1943 the attitude towards the sick changed considerably. The previous commander (Lt M.KIYU) and the brutal medical sergeant had been transferred. A new and larger hospital and good M.I. Room were provided, and by February 1944 we had gained absolute control over the sick. This meant that it was now the doctors who decided which men went into hospital and which men were too sick to work, and whilst the Japs would limit the total number of men who could be off work, the doctors were able to pick out the worst and keep them in camp. In May 1944 a large consignment of Red Cross drugs and some food arrived. The drugs were magnificent and as the men agreed that half the milk in the parcels should be put on one side for the hospital, the outlook was good. These drugs, and especially the milk, were to save many lives during the next twelve months.

Towards the end of 1944 food began to deteriorate and the health declined rapidly.

On the 1st January 1945, definite improvements were made re mine work. Yasumis (holidays) were increased, and it was possible for the doctor to give "weak men's tallies" to mine workers for light work. Reveille was put to 0630 hrs instead of 0600 hrs, and the Commander, pointed out that all this had been done to try and improve the health.

We continued each week during January to make out dozens of different lists of weak men, and then it was suddenly changed and lists were called for of men who were not fit to work in the mine but were well enough to leave the camp.

On 20th January a list had been given to us of weak men to leave the camp for a hospital.

On 1st February we were given another list of fit men to leave the camp (not the most sick).

On 21st February 1945 a party left for J.P.N. On 26th February 1945, the civilian doctor from the mining company was called by the Japs to Captain SEED, R.N.M.C., and Captain J.H.F. STEWART, R.N., who were seriously ill. This doctor examined them thoroughly and through the interpreter told them that they were suffering from malnutrition, and that was the end of that. On 22nd March 1945, every sick man in the camp (including the doctors, of whom Captain SEED was still seriously ill) went to No. 4 Sick Camp, also two medical orderlies, and all drugs from our camp were sent.

From here until 31st May we were left without any doctors or drugs. During May one man developed mental trouble and another tuberculosis of the spine, and on immediate application by the P.W. for these men to be moved into the hospital camp, where there were doctors, was granted. They were subsequently taken on stretchers to that camp. The remainder of the camp was transferred to the Jungle, and the story is told in my affidavit on the "Jungle Camp".

Several requests for a Red Cross representative to visit this camp were made at various times, but in each case the reply came that the mining camp was too inaccessible.

There is now produced to me and marked "J.T.N.C.B." a list of the deaths which occurred among our prisoners from November 1942 to September 1945, showing the cause of death in the last column.

5. FOOD

Upon our arrival in KINKASAKI Camp the food consisted of about 400 gms per day of rice and a little vegetable.

The cooking was done in a separate cookhouse by our own cooks, who drew the daily rations from the Jap Q.M. We were constantly told that as soon as work commenced Meat, Bread, Fish etc. would be provided.

/When

When the work did commence there was no change in the ration, but the Japs ordered that men going to work must have more food at the expense of the sick men and those remaining in camp (including officers). In one instance the cook chief issued the same lunch to all prisoners and was sentenced to five days' imprisonment for disobeying orders.

In January 1943 the Commander instituted a most elaborate scheme whereby those men who kept good attendance in the mine (i.e. were not sick) received up to seven extra riceballs per day. Again at the expense of the remainder. This was a most cunning scheme on their part but a most pernicious one as far as we were concerned, and we had great difficulty in persuading men who were really sick not to go to work in order to get the extra food, but it was a great temptation in these days of starvation.

It was a constant fight with the Jap Ration N.C.O. to make sure that we got at least the food ordered by the Commander.

At the end of 1943 we were able to stop this Riceball racket and from then onwards all food was shared throughout the camp and, where necessary, extra food was diverted to the hospital for the most sick patients. Our food was not too bad during 1944.

Work at the mine finished in March 1945 and then there was a very drastic reduction in the rations. Repeated requests were made for more food, and in April the P.M. interviewed the Jap Officer and told him the men were starving. It was pointed out that this did not quite make sense as we knew there were Red Cross rations in the store. They refused to issue the Red Cross supplies as they said it was to be kept for an emergency. However, within a few days we were put back on to workers' rations in spite of the fact that no men in the camp were working.

6. The following are details of personalities at the Camp during the period dealt with above, all of whom must be held in some measure responsible for the conditions which obtained.

Lt (later Capt) WAKIYAMA

Camp Commander from November 1942 to December 1943.

This man was in sole charge of the Camp during the worst period. He was guilty of the utmost brutality, and there was no possibility of any alleviation of our conditions until he left in December 1943.

2/Lt ASHIDA

Third officer from November 1942 to January 1944.

2/Lt OITA

Adjutant and Officer i/c Work from November 1942 to March 1943. This officer was responsible for many beatings-up and demanded a full complement of workers irrespective of sickness. On occasions he was helpful in connection with the work vis-a-vis the mining company.

2/Lt MURAI

Adjutant and Officer i/c Work from June 1943 to March 1944. He was the best officer we had and did a great deal to improve conditions. He was responsible for occasional beatings.

2/Lt SAZUKI

January 1944 to September 1945. This officer became Adjutant when MURAI left in March 1944. He was hostile but not one of the most brutal. Later he smashed Cnr DAILY's jaw after we had moved to the Jungle Camp.

/2/Lt T.HARA

2/Lt T.HARA

Officer i/c Work March 1944 to September 1945. At first this officer was fairly helpful, but later, at the Jungle Camp, he became far more brutal and unreasonable.

Captain IMAMURA

Camp Commander from December 1943 to September 1945. At this camp IMAMURA was a great improvement on W.KIYAMA. At the Jungle Camp, later, he became very brutal and both ordered and personally carried out severe beatings.

There are now produced to me and marked "J.T.N.C.6" and "J.T.N.C.7" two photographs. "J.T.N.C.6" shows Capt IMAMURA, Lt S.ZUKI and Lt T.HARA in the background of the photograph, and "J.T.N.C.7" shows Col S.ZUKI (referred to below) and Lts W.KIYAMA and OITA in the background. I understand that W.KIYAMA no longer has a moustache.

There were the following additional personalities at the camp:-

Sgt. Maj. FUKU

He came from HAITO Camp and was extremely brutal.

The Medical Sergeant TASHIRO during our first year in this camp was also extremely brutal and was responsible for many deaths.

The following Formosan soldiers were guilty of great brutality. They are known to me only by their nicknames, and I am unable to give personal descriptions. They are as follows:-

"NASTY CARPENTER"
"FILIPPINO"
"WATER-WATER"
"POCKLECK"
"BRO N-BRO N"

The following Jap and Formosan henchmen were guilty of great brutality and indirectly responsible for many deaths. They are known to me only by their nicknames, and I am unable to give personal descriptions. They are as follows:-

"THE EAGLE"
"THE GHOST"
"THE FRYING-PAN"
"BLACKIE"

7. During the period dealt with above the following were known to be Commanders in Chief of all F.O.... Camps in FOROS:-

Colonel NAKINO	June 1942 - June 1943.
Colonel S.ZUKI	June 1943 - March 1945
Major USTE	March 1945 - September 1945.

SWORN by the above named JAMES THOMAS NAHEM H CROSS,
at 6, Spring Gardens, in the city of Westminster,
in the County of London,
this tenth day of January 1946

Before me
...M. BELL-MCDONALD,
Major, Legal Staff,
Military Department, Office of
The Judge Advocate General

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit,
/s/ M. Waters, Major, Legal Staff, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

J.T.N.C.1

This is the exhibit referred to in the Affidavit of No. 165479 JAMES THOMAS NEHENIAN CROSS, SWORN this tenth day of January 1946.

BEFORE ME

A.M. BELL-MACDONALD, Major
Legal Staff, Mil.Dept, J.L.G.---

Major Legal Staff
Mil Dept. Office of the Judge
Advocate General

Extracts from Diary

14 December 1942

Lt. Colonel MAPLER submitted protest re officers working in the cockhouse. Consequently officers were released from this work.

15 December 1942

* A present of oranges was given to all men who were fit to start work. Sick men and officers were excluded.

18 December 1942

Whilst waiting for inspection by the Commander, the Nippon Medical Sergeant entered the officers' billet and hit every officer with a stick, two officers receiving cuts on the head. The only remark made by the N.C.O. was "Officers no good". Protest in writing was submitted.

20 December 1942

In view of the increase of Dysentery, No. 3 Billet was made into a Dysentery Ward and the occupants distributed over the other huts.

22 December 1942

55 men went to work in the copper mines.

26 December 1942

Inspection by Commander in Chief TAIWAN Prisoners; paraded outside in pouring rain; no coats allowed.

28 December 1942

Officers asked if they would work on roadmaking. All declined, so the Jap Officer gave a long lecture and said: "No work - no food".

29 December 1942

All fit men sent to work in the copper mines. All officers ordered to work making stone steps in the camp. Commander was told that officers would work only on a voluntary basis and if they felt fit. One officer badly beaten by Medical Sergeant. A protest was submitted to the Camp Commander, pointing out that many men were not fit

to work in the mines as we had been told by the Japanese in SINGAPORE that weak men could be included in the party as they were required for light work only.

3 January 1943

All camp paraded outside from 0900 hrs to 1200 hrs in pouring rain for propaganda lecture by Camp Commander.

7th January 1943

Officers started to make sandals from straw. Commander called conferences of Personnel Administrator and Squad Chiefs to give orders re extra food for workers.

8th January 1943

No games to be played (including cards) except on holidays granted by the Japanese.

Officers told they must make five pairs of sandals to earn one rice ball.

13th January 1943

Order that no Officer would be allowed to take a bath until all men had bathed. The bath was a large concrete tank, - only one lot of water for all the camp.

21st January 1943

Officers taken out of the camp for a day's work at the minehead.

23rd January 1943

Men who had not worked well in the mine were made to run up and down a hill and beaten as they ran. During the evening in the pouring rain, 15 men all sick and mostly from hospital, were lined up and ordered to take off their shirts, made to do P.T. and were beaten. The reason for this was that they had failed to have their identification photographs taken. Gr. Black and L/Cpl. Peterson, A.D.C. never recovered from this and died in the camp later.

28th January 1943

Seven men of the Dysentery ward caught by Camp Commander playing cards. They were sentenced to be handcuffed together (two couples and three) for three days. One of the men, Gunner Pestell who was seriously ill at the time, died three weeks later.

30th January 1943

Two W.O's severely beaten because some men were singing.

1st February 1943

Gunner Millership killed in the mine. Japs staged great show at the funeral.

2nd February 1943

A Taiwan soldier known as the "Nasty Carpenter", went into the Officers' Billet and there was a terrific beating up. Many Officers were knocked out.

8th February 1943

The most brutal and severe beating up as yet. Eight Taiwan soldiers entered the Officers' Billet and made straight for Captain A. Sewell, M.C.R.I. They proceeded, each in turn, to beat him for an hour in all, and finished up with a sentry with rifle using the butt end and hitting him on the head with the bayonet. The Officer concerned was in a very bad way when this beating was finished. Immediate protests were submitted and the following day Lt. Colonel Iason and Captain Sewell were sent for and a semi apology was made by the Camp Commander. Subsequently these Taiwan soldiers concerned were paraded and beaten up themselves by the Japanese guards.

16th February 1943

11 men who, through no fault of their own, had no mining lamps, were kept standing to attention for four hours and beaten if they moved; they then had to work on digging all day with no food or rest.

18th February 1943

Inspection of commodities in the camp. All Taiwan soldiers appeared with sticks and beat up all the sick men in camp. In the afternoon a party which was going outside to work was passing through the camp gates when Gnr. Bilham fell out to fasten his shoelace. By the time he had finished this the party had gone and the gates were closed. 10 minutes later the party returned and the Jap Officer, in a terrible rage, sent for Gnr. Bilham, who was immediately knocked senseless by Taiwan Guards. The Personnel Administrator went out to argue with the Jap Officer re this and pointed out that no matter what the man had done, there was no excuse for such brutal and inhuman treatment. Eventually, the Personnel Administrator was allowed to take Gnr. Bilham back into the Office and that evening the Jap Officer made a half-hearted apology.

20th February 1943

The Commander walked into the cookhouse and ordered four cooks to beat each other for half an hour. M.C.O. of Guard had a terrific day, beating up all and sundry.

21st February 1943

Bad nine workers severely beaten up and made to run up and down hill.

22nd February 1943

Letter of protest re general treatment submitted by Personnel Administrator.

25th February 1943

Officers ordered to prepare for work at the minehead.

26th February 1943

Ten Officers proceeded to work. After returning from work, the P.A. was sent for by the Japanese Officer and told that he had broken all camp regulations by writing a letter

of protest to the Commander. After a long discussion with the Officer who, incidentally, had checked each item of the report, he said it would be attended to. There is no doubt that the conditions of the men did improve from this date but, as will be seen later, very much at the expense of the Officers.

27th February 1943

Officers having seen the type of work, decided that it was helping the Japanese War Effort and it was agreed that it should not be continued. During the afternoon, Gnr. Mysen - a bit of a halfwit - employed as general sweeper and odd job man, was sweeping the small square, which was used as the Parade Ground, when he saw the Camp Commander coming his way. He immediately placed his broom against the large Wall Map of the World (this map showed all the Japanese gains by means of pin Jap flags), and prepared to salute the Commander. By the time the Commander reached Mysen the broom had fallen to the ground, taking with it the flag out of Java. The Commander was no longer interested in the salute which Mysen gave him. He had seen the flag of the great Japanese Nation knocked to the ground by a broom used by a common British soldier. There was an explosion!! All Officers and men remaining in Camp were paraded and given a long lecture on the import of the awful thing which Mysen had done. The parade was then ordered to salute the Map, the offending flag had by this time been replanted in Java. Then each Officer had to come forward, go up to the Map, salute, and salute again, and take up his place in the parade. A further harangue followed, and Mysen was sent to the Guard Room for ten days. The P.O.W. duty N.C.O. was also sent to the Guard Room for one day for allowing such a terrible thing to happen during his tour of duty.

28th February 1943

Major C. M. Stewart was severely beaten by the Guard Commander. The beating lasted for about ten minutes and the Major sustained injuries to the ribs. The reason for this was that the Major, whilst taking exercise, had been walking with his arms behind his back, and not swinging his arms as the Guard Commander thought a soldier should.

3rd March 1943

Officers sentenced to imprisonment for an indefinite period.

5th March 1943

General from Prisoners of War Information Bureau came to the camp. No Prisoner was allowed to speak to him.

3rd April 1943

Inspection by C. in C. All to parade. O.R.'s wearing Japanese Uniform, Officers to wear British uniform and ranks.

13th April 1943

Red Cross Supplies arrived (British). All prisoners ordered to give detailed account of their personal belongings.

17th April 1943

Health of the men declining rapidly through mine work.

13th April 1943

Japs commenced to open every tin of food from Red Cross and probe them, also inspecting the backs of all labels; nothing was left intact.

26th April 1943

Gnr. Wylie who was Squad Chief on duty, walked in front of the Japanese Sergeant Major; he hit him savagely on the head with his sword and Wylie received severe cuts on the scalp, requiring stitches by the Doctor.

2nd May 1943

Japanese Medical Sergeant went round the camp, generally beating up anyone who got in his way.

5th May 1943

Commander entered Hospital and one sick man who could not get up in time was beaten by the Commander.

21st May 1943

Conditions in camp have improved, although beatings have not entirely stopped.

21st June 1943

Change of Commander in Chiefs of Prisoners - better treatment promised.

2nd July 1943

A new method was tried to circumvent the Medical Sergeant. Doctor Seed wrote a report direct to the Camp Commander to the effect that Sergeant Baker was being sent to work in the mine and was not fit. As a result of this letter the Jap Officer i/c. work allowed this man to be admitted to Hospital. Then the Jap Medical Sergeant saw him there, he became crazy with rage, beat Doctor Seed and ordered Baker out of Hospital.

11th July 1943

New Commander in Chief visited camp and made a speech in which he said he sympathised with us in our position, and we must take care of our health so that we might go home at the end of the war.

15th July 1943 and 16 July 1943

TWO DAYS' holiday. This was the first time since our arrival in Formosa that no work of any sort was required of prisoners.

20th July 1943

Games, Music, etc. now allowed each evening after tea.

10th August 1943

Prisoners from Taihoku camp arrived, including a Doctor, Major Wheeler.

12th August 1943

More Prisoners arrived - mainly 18 Div. units

20th August 1943

23 Officers and over 100 men left the camp, the Officers were to go to an Officers' Camp.

The camp was now enlarged. From now onwards liaison with the Japs re the improvement of treatment, food, working conditions and entertainments became much easier. Many long conferences were held with the Japs regarding these points.

2nd September 1943

100 more Prisoners arrived.

3rd September 1943

Camp now organised into 22 Squads - Strength 678.

6th September 1943

Inspection by C. in C. who inspected food and said it was very little.

20th September 1943

C.P.M.S. James handcuffed for not wearing a number.

30th September 1943

New and bigger Hospital opened.

/5th October 1943

5th October 1943

N.C.O. i/c Cookhouse severely beaten by Medical Sergeant.

12th October 1943

88 letters from home; the first consignment arrived in the camp.

8th November 1943

100 weak men transferred from the camp.

10th November 1943

75 more prisoners arrived from Heito.

14th November 1943

Great display by the Japanese to pray for our dead or, in other words, the men they had killed. Extra food, etc. Concert in the evening.

2nd December 1943

Camp Commander changed. Loud cheers from all! With this change of Commander, a new phase commenced, during which it was possible for the P.A. to submit various requests which in most cases were granted or at least considered. This Commander was definitely against the policy of beating prisoners and consequently all guards changed their attitudes immediately, thus proving that the whole of the brutal treatment during the past 12 months was done at the instigation of the first Commander, Lt. Wakiyama.

30th January 1944

The Commander in Chief came to the Camp and invited the P.A., Doctor, Commodity Officer, Librarian, Accountant, Cook Chief, and representatives from the prisoners, totalling ten, to a conference. The C. in C. asked us to speak without reserve. The war was first discussed and he was told in no uncertain terms that in our opinion Japan was doomed to extinction. The C. in C. laughed at this and said that whilst the Allies might possess all the materials, the Japanese possessed the spirit and it would take 100 years to remove them from the battle.

Later, the P.A. asked that one floor in the mine, where three men had been killed, should be closed immediately and also if a Church of England Padre could be transferred to this camp. The Doctor asked for various drugs and special food for the sick. The Librarian made a request for books. The Cook Chief asked for more cooking oil; this caused a bit of a stir when we produced the figures of the amounts we had received, and it appeared that the Jap N.C.O. i/c. rations had not been giving us what he should. All the remainder made varying requests and great emphasis was laid on safety precautions in the mine which should be the responsibility of the mining company.

13th February 1944

For the first time we were allowed to write letters and postcards in our own writing and wording.

19th May 1944

The P.A. asked the Camp Commander for an interview with himself and the two British Doctors with a view to discussing the improvements and life in general of Prisoners. The Commander agreed to this and the following conference was held on the 19th May -

/Present:-

29th May 1944 (Contd)

Present:- Major Crossley
Major Wheeler
Captain Seed
Japanese Commander
Japanese Interpreter

Major Crossley set the ball rolling and told the Commander that if the health of the men was to be improved, there must be more mental relaxation. The Commander agreed to any sports being played including football, baseball, etc. He was also asked to provide cinema shows, loudspeakers, etc. for the camp, and he promised to try. He was then told that all sentries had the habit of walking through huts in the evenings whilst the men were reading or playing cards, and it was pointed out to him that this was very tiresome. To our amazement he said this would be stopped immediately and stopped it was - no sentry being allowed to enter a prisoner's billet unless there was a disturbance. The Doctors stressed the need for more drugs and equipment and also milk and eggs for the Hospital. The Commander replied that he would do his best, but in the meantime the P.A. and the I.O. could do entirely as they wished with the food issued by the Nippon Army as regards distribution and cooking etc. and if the Hospital patients required more food, that was all right. This of course was astounding, as previously it was one of the strictest rules that workers got all extra food and sick men's rations were reduced. As a result of this conference, football was started in the camp and the enthusiasm was colossal. The effect on the minds of the men was miraculous and was one of the best things ever started in the camp.

10th June 1944

We were told that a Red Cross Representative was on the island, but that he could not visit No. 1 Camp. We might, however, submit a list of articles we required. This was done. We received one item of this list, 'Bug Powder'.

24th June 1944

During the remainder of this summer we continued under the best conditions we had experienced. This continued until October, when food became worse and the death rate increased at an alarming rate. Heavy air raids started on Formosa in October of this year and it appeared that the island was becoming isolated. A number of letters sent to the Japs in 1944 for App. 7 & 8.

The year 1945 opened with a speech by the Camp Commander, in which he congratulated all prisoners on reaching the beginning of another year. He said that decisive battles were being waged both in Europe and in Asia, but that did not mean that the end of the war was in sight. We must be patient and obey the rules of the Nippon Army, and work to good effect in the mine. Men continued to die at a rate faster than we had experienced before. As will be seen from the Death List, 18 men died in January and February. The general health condition throughout the camp was pretty grim.

21st February 1945

A party consisting of three officers, Captain Rooke, Lts. Brown and Smith, and 257 O.R's left for Japan. The Jap Camp Commander was in charge of this party and later took charge of a larger party of I.O.'s leaving Formosa for Japan. Lt. Sazuki was left in Command of this Camp.

28th February 1945

There was some talk of a party of sick men leaving the camp. Lists were prepared by the P.A. in consultation with the Doctor.

9th March 1945